



(Knowledge for Development)

# KIBABII UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

FIRST YEAR SEMESTER ONE

MAIN EXAMINATION

FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHYLOSOPHY IN  
CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

COURSE CODE: CUT929

COURSE TITLE: RESEARCH PROPOSAL WRITING IN  
EDUCATION

DATE:

26  
29/5/22

TIME: 2:00PM-3:00PM

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## INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer Question One and any other TWO Questions

TIME: 2 Hours

This Paper Consists of 3 Printed Pages. Please Turn Over.



### **QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)**

Provide a comprehensive critique of the following abstract

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020, higher learning institutions made a shift to an online or blended form of instruction. The primary objective of this research, therefore, is to determine ways of strengthening STEM education through inclusive e-learning at KIBU. This is operationalized through the following the following sub-objectives, to assess the capacity of ODEL platform to provide online education technologies to sciences and medical sciences, assess the socioeconomic status of students at KIBU, evaluate the perceived e-learning challenges and determine the perception of regulatory bodies on on-line education technologies and identify best methods and resources for inclusive e-learning at KIBU for STEM.. A mixed research design was adopted with the use of qualitative and quantitative data. Stratified random sampling was done for students and purposeful sampling for key informants. Data was collected from 200 students and key informants representing 23 service providers from School of Nursing, School of Education, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Business and Economics, ODEL and 2 regulatory institutions. Key findings revealed that the capacity of ODEL for orientation, training and e-learning support for students and service providers is fairly robust, however, further capacity building of students and faculty is required. Further, there is a significant socio-economic gap among students creating a barrier to inclusive access to e-learning education, with a reported monthly household income of K.sh3,000 and below (63.4%), no access to electricity at home (31.5%) and little or no network coverage at places of residence (52.6). Major constraints to effective e-learning for students are insufficient bundles (50.8%) and poor network coverage (30.9%). Other constraints include unaffordable e-learning equipment (8.3%), insufficient training in e-learning (8.3%) and lack of electricity at home. The quality of internet network coverage was found to be best on campus (72.7%) and poorest at home (42.6%). The coverage at workplace accounted for (53.6%). These constraints imply that the delivery of e-learning may not benefit all students, as some face challenges of accessing the various platforms. For faculty members, the major challenges encountered were disruptive network (23.8%), lack of bundles by students (14.3%) and unstable network (14.3%). Findings from regulators indicate robust support for e-learning in universities, however, significant gaps need to be addressed regarding practical sessions offered by applied and medical sciences. Therefore, the study recommends that students be facilitated with sufficient bundles in order to help them participate in e-learning efficiently. Best practices include enhanced technical skills, stable internet networks, expansion of e-learning infrastructure, blended learning and effective collaboration with regulatory bodies to achieve improved quality standards and inclusive access to e-learning.

### **QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

The introduction chapter of a proposal succinctly explains what one wants to do and why. Discuss



**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Review of related literature is a key ingredient of a research proposal. Discuss what it entails to write a strong literature review.

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

Suppose your research topic is “A case study on the differences in scores of undergraduate students in Traditional, Online, and Blended Classes”

- a) Comment on the appropriateness of the topic for research (4 Marks)
- b) Prepare a brief presentation on the topic under the following sections:
  - i. Problem statement (4 Marks)
  - ii. Objectives of the Study (4 Marks)
  - iii. Justification of the Study (4 Marks)
  - iv. Research Design (4 Marks)

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

- a) Distinguish between conceptual framework and theoretical framework. (4 Marks)
- b) Design a conceptual framework based on any proposed topic of your choice (6 Marks)
- c) Discuss the ethical considerations that qualitative studies are hinged on. (10 Marks)